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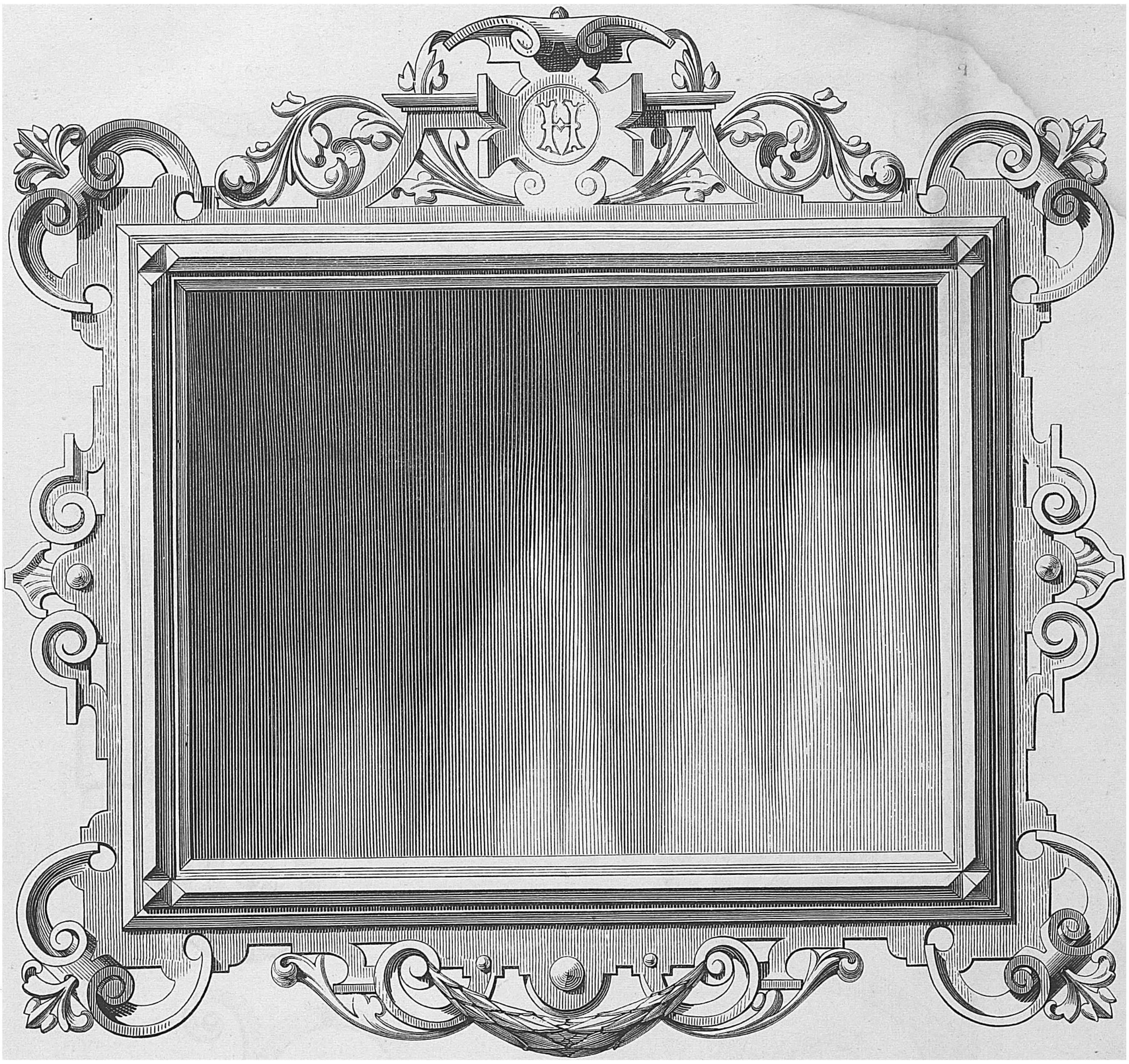

No. 27. Looking-Glass Frame.
For Details see Supplement, No. 3.

VARIOUS.

Artificial Production of Alizarin.

The red substance to which madder root owes its value as a dye has long been known to have some close relationship either to naphthalin, one of the constituents of the coal tar produced in gasworks, or to some chemical analogue of that substance, and its artificial production has been for some time a problem of great interest to chemists. Quite recently it has been announced at a meeting of the Chemical Society of Berlin that alizarin has been obtained artificially from anthacene or paranaphthalin, a solid hydrocarbon contained in gas tar, which has sometimes been used in an impure state, as a kind of coarse grease for machinery. The method by which it has been converted into alizarin has not yet been clearly described, but it is stated that the artificial product is identical with the alizarin of madder root in its behaviour with mordanted cloth. If this discovery can be rendered practically applicable, it would be of very great value, and a very important addition to the long series of dyeing materials now obtained from coal tar. The consumption of madder in the printing of calico and in dyeing is enormous, large tracts of land are occupied in the cultivation of the root, and it forms the basis of a very extensive branch of commerce; consequently the possible artificial production of alizarin from such a source as coal tar may be looked forward to as likely to give rise to a new trade of great importance. *Engineering.*

Fine Art Exhibition.

A universal Fine Art Exhibition will be held this year at Munich in the Crystal Palace of that city; it is to take place after the closing of the Paris salon, in June, in order to give French artists an opportunity of presenting their works. The prestige of Munich in matters of art is expected to give additional interest to this exhibition.